



Fox Sparrow

As the year winds down to an end, so do many of nature's changes that we've seen take place through the spring, summer and fall months. Birds have arrived in their over-wintering grounds, most flowers are done blooming, and many insects have gone dormant. But even though everything is settling into winter mode, the activity is doing anything but settling. The hustle and bustle of the birds is enough to keep up with our fast pace during the holidays. Large flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings that form this time of year can cause quite a commotion around major food sources. Plants that are still holding their berries such as holly, sumac, and ornamental fruit trees can draw dozens of these birds. To add to the excitement, many of the berries will begin to ferment as winter goes on, producing alcohol and leaving their consumers intoxicated. The commotion will often start to increase around bird feeders, too. As natural food sources become depleted and temperatures drop, many of our feathered friends are happy to make use of the easy calories we present to them in bird seed. A high fat diet is essential so they can pack on the extra insulation and stay warm overnight. So bundle up, escape the holiday hustle, and see what activity you can find out in the woods!



Cedar Waxwing



American Robin